

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01374 161539Z
ACTION EUR-12

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TO USINFO
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9238
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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SECSTATE EUR/RPM FOR MADDEN; BELGRADE FOR GRABELL AND
HOFFMAN PASS SHERER

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: EDITORIAL IN IRISH TIMES JUNE 16, 1977

EXCERPT FROM EDITORIAL IN JUNE 16 ISSUE OF IRISH TIMES
UNDER HEADING ON TO BELGRADE FOLLOWS:

.... SINCE 1975 THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT HAS BACKFIRED SOMEWHAT
ON THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND OTHER EAST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS.
ITS TEXT WAS CIRCULATED WIDELY IN THOSE COUNTRIES, AND HAS
BEEN SEIZED UPON BY GROUPS URGING GREATER FREEDOMS, AND HAS
ALSO ASSUMED SIGNIFICANCE IN THE RELATIONS AMONG EAST
EUROPEAN STATES, AND PARTICULARLY BETWEEN MOST OF THE
STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION.

SO WHAT BEGAN MORE THAN A DECADE AGO AS A KREMLIN BRAINCHILD
HAS BEGUN TO TURN INTO AN EMBARRASSMENT TO MOSCOW.
THERE IS THEREFORE SOME CONCERN THAT THE SOVIET
UNION MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO USE PRESIDENT CARTER'S
STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AS A PRETEXT FOR SUSPENDING
THE WHOLE FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM. IN THE HELSINKI FINAL
ACT HUMAN RIGHTS ARE NOT DEALT WITH IN DETAIL;
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RESPECT FOR THESE RIGHTS AND FOR FUNDAMENTAL
FREEDOMS OF THOUGHT, CONSCIENCE, RELIGION OR BELIEF, IS ONE
OF THE STATED PRINCIPLES, AND SO IS NON-INTERVENTION
IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF INDIVIDUAL STATES.

IT WOULD, THEREFORE, BE DIFFICULT TO USE BELGRADE TO
MOUNT A GENERAL EXAMINATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE

SOVIET BLOC. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS ON HUMAN CONTACTS AND EXCHANGES OF PEOPLE AND INFORMATION HAVE BEEN HONoured CAN AND SHOULD BE EXPLORED AT LENGTH. HELSINKI SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS A STICK WITH WHICH TO BEAT THE SOVIET UNION, BUT AS A MODEST LEVER WITH WHICH TO PRIZE OPEN SOME HITHERTO TIGHTLY CLOSED DOORS. KRENE

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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